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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (withdrawn) A method for determining whether a substance is an activator or an inhibitor of a function of a UDD-protein comprising: (a) contacting the UDD-protein with a substance to be tested; and (b) measuring whether the function is inhibited or activated.
2. (withdrawn) A method for determining whether a substance is an activator or an inhibitor of a function of a protein comprising: (a) contacting the protein with a substance to be tested, wherein the protein is a functionally equivalent variant, mutant or fragment of a UDD-protein; and (b) measuring whether the function is inhibited or activated.
3. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the inhibition or activation of the function is measured directly.
4. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the inhibition or activation of the function is measured indirectly.
5. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the UDD-protein is a mammalian UDD-protein.
6. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 5 wherein the UDD-protein is a human UDD-protein.
7. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the method is performed using a cellular system.
8. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the method is performed using a cell-free system.

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9. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the UDD-protein consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:8.
 10. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 9 wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO. 4.
 11. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 9 wherein the amino acid sequence is a functionally equivalent mutant, variant or fragment of SEQ ID NO. 4.
 12. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 9 wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO. 8.
 13. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 9 wherein the amino acid sequence is a functionally equivalent mutant, variant or fragment of SEQ ID NO. 8.
 14. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the function is substrate binding.
 15. (withdrawn) A method for determining an expression level of a UDD-protein comprising: (a) determining the level of UDD-protein expressed in a hyperactivated macrophage; (b) determining the level of UDD-protein expressed in a non-hyperactivated macrophage; and (c) comparing the level of the UDD-protein expressed in step (a) to the level of the UDD-protein expressed in step (b), wherein a difference in the levels indicates a differentially expressed protein.
 16. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 15 wherein the hyperactivated macrophage is a mammalian macrophage and the non-hyperactivated macrophage is a mammalian macrophage.
 17. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 16 wherein the hyperactivated macrophage is a human macrophage and the non-hyperactivated macrophage is a human macrophage.

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18. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 15 wherein the UDD-protein consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:8.
19. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 18 wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:4.
20. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 18 wherein the amino acid sequence is a functionally equivalent variant, mutant or fragment of SEQ ID NO:4.
21. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 18 wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:8.
22. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 18 wherein the amino acid sequence is a functionally equivalent variant, mutant or fragment of SEQ ID NO:8.
23. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing or monitoring a chronic inflammatory airway disease comprising: (a) determining the level of a UDD-protein expressed in a hyperactivated macrophage, wherein the UDD-protein is selected from the group consisting of UCH-L3 and HC3; (b) determining the level of the UDD-protein expressed in a non-hyperactivated macrophage; and (c) comparing the level of the UDD-protein expressed in step (a) to the level of the UDD-protein expressed in step (b), wherein a difference in the levels indicates a differentially-expressed of the UDD-protein indicates the presence of a chronic inflammatory airway disease.
24. (currently amended) The method according to claim 23 wherein the chronic inflammatory airway disease is selected from the group consisting of ~~ef-~~of chronic bronchitis and COPD.
25. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 15 wherein the method is performed using a macrophage or a part thereof obtainable from a site of inflammation.
26. (withdrawn) A substance determined to be an activator or an inhibitor of a UDD-protein.

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27. (withdrawn) A substance determined to be an activator or an inhibitor of a UDD-protein according to the method of claim 1.
28. (withdrawn) A substance for the treatment for a disease wherein the substance is an activator or an inhibitor of a UDD-protein.
29. (withdrawn) The substance according to claim 28 wherein the disease is a chronic inflammatory airway disease.
30. (withdrawn) The substance according to claim 29 wherein the chronic inflammatory airway disease is selected from the group consisting of: chronic bronchitis and COPD.
31. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one substance which is an activator or an inhibitor of a UDD-protein; and a pharmaceutical carrier.
32. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one substance which is an activator or an inhibitor of a UDD-protein according to the method of claim 1; and a pharmaceutical carrier.
33. (withdrawn) A method for treating a chronic inflammatory airway disease comprising: administering to a being in need of such treatment an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one substance determined to be an activator or an inhibitor of a UDD-protein.
34. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 for treating a mammal.
35. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 for treating a human.
36. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 for treating a chronic inflammatory airway disease selected from the group consisting of: chronic bronchitis and COPD.
37. (withdrawn) A method for treating a chronic inflammatory airway disease comprising: administering to a being in need of such treatment an effective amount of a

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pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one substance determined to be an activator or an inhibitor of a UDD-protein according to the method of claim 1.

38. (withdrawn) A method for selectively modulating a UDD-protein in a macrophage, comprising administering a substance determined to be an activator or an inhibitor of a UDD-protein.
39. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 38 wherein the macrophage is involved in a chronic inflammatory airway disease
40. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 39 wherein the chronic inflammatory airway disease is selected from the group consisting of: chronic bronchitis and COPD.
41. (withdrawn) A method for selectively modulating a UDD-protein in a macrophage, comprising administering a substance determined to be an activator or an inhibitor of a UDD-protein according to the method of claim 1.